

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01260 231536Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6634

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FOR EUR - MR GOOTT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IC, US

SUBJECT: IMPORTANCE OF US LABOR REPRESENTATION OF IFL CONGRESS

1. ICELANDIC FEDERATION OF LABOR HAS REPORTEDLY INVITED US TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND IFL'S NATIONAL CONGRESS IN REYKJAVIK WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 1976.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY HOPES THAT US LABOR WILL BE REPRESENTED AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPARTMENT WOULD CONTACT APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS (PRESUMABLY IN AFL-CIO) IN EFFORT TO INSURE THAT IF IFL INVITATION IS OR HAS BEEN RECEIVED, IT IS GIVEN EVERY CONSIDERATION. FOLLOWING POINTS ARE OFFERED IN SUPPORT OF REQUEST:

-- CONVENTION IS BY FAR MOST IMPORTANT EVENT FOR ICELAND'S ORGANIZED LABOR IN SEVERAL YEARS. IT IS NOT ONLY QUADRENNIAL OCCASION FOR IFL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES BUT THIS YEAR ALSO MARKS IFL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY.

-- US IS APPARENTLY AMONG HANDFUL OF NATIONS (APPROXIMATELY 10) INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES. AMONG OTHER ARE USSR AND GDR, BOTH OF WHOM, IN OUR JUDGMENT, WILL PROBABLY PARTICIPATE. US ABSENCE WOULD BE SOMETHING OF SNUB IN OWN RIGHT AS WELL AS BASIS FOR UNFAVORABLE COMPARISON WITH SOVIETS AND EAST GERMANS.

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 01260 231536Z

-- SIMILARLY, ICELANDIC LABOR LEADERS SELDOM MISS OP-

PORTUNITY TO REMIND EMBASSY OF LACK OF ATTENTION FROM US
COUNTERPARTS, ESPECIALLY IN CONTRAST TO AVID
COURTING FROM COMMUNIST UNIONS AND GOVERNMENTS. THERE ARE
STRONG PRO-WEST ANTI-COMMUNIST ELEMENTS AMONG ICELANDIC
UNIONS THAT DESERVE AND WOULD WELCOME GESTURE FROM US
LABOR.
BLAKE

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